

Powwow bridges cultural barriers

By SONNI SCHWINN
Wasatch Correspondent

HEBER CITY — Heber Valley's first Indian powwow in more than 50 years started Friday with a colorful grand entry with about 50 dancers and six drum groups.

Indians continued to arrive and set up camps at the Wasatch County Fairgrounds until there were about 300 for the Saturday afternoon grand entry.

The powwow committee expected at least three times as many Indians to compete in Heber, based on responses to comparable purses at other powwows.

Two hours before the first grand entry, Lacey Harris, one of the arena directors, conducted an hour-long ritual, blessing the powwow committee, the dancers, musicians, workers and the grounds, setting the spiritual tone of the powwow.

After the entry and posting of the U.S. and Indian flags, there were several inter-tribal dances, followed by two friendship dances in which spectators participated.

Two circles of Indians and non-Indians danced in opposite directions with the dancers shaking hands as they passed one another.

The powwow is the fulfillment of a dream for Ken Davis, a non-Indian Heber City native who has always admired Indians. About nine months ago, he contacted Jim Belagody, an Indian who hosts a two-hour Indian music program on a Salt Lake radio station. They began to form the powwow committee.

When the idea was presented to the Heber City Council, Belagody offered his services as a consultant and member of the committee free of charge. He said he just wanted non-Indian people to understand Indians and their heritage and to break down the barriers between the two cultures.

The dancers and musicians at the Heber powwow are competing for an \$8,500 purse. Men and women compete separately in traditional and fancy dance categories.

Traditional dancing is conservative in tempo, movement and costume. Fancy dancing, developed during the past 80 years, is fast, with more intricate footwork and the costumes are more spectacular.

Children also compete in age groups. The first Heber City competition was for chil-



Tmt Nelson Photo

A dancer waits for his turn during the powwow in Wasatch County Friday.

dren under 8. The youngest was a 4-year-old boy who never missed a beat.

Everything at a powwow is symbolic. Indians design their own costumes and usually make them themselves. Each color and ornament has a personal and spiritual meaning.

The head man dancer, Travis Parashants, explained that the arena is a circle and the grand entry is always from the east. He said it symbolizes the circle of life into which a baby is born, grows through the stages of

life, and in old age, turns to where he began.

He said the war dances were victory dances that had more meaning and weren't as evil as portrayed in movies.

Harris said Indians also used to gather to discuss problems or make plans.

Today's powwows are spiritual celebrations, held to keep the culture alive, Harris said.

The dances demonstrate traditional skills, and symbolically tell stories. A dancer may search the ground, relating an experience in which he

tracked an animal or enemy, then glance to the rear to guard against a surprise attack.

Parashants explained competitors are judged on how often they participate in the dances as well as on their dance and music skills. They also look for an inner quality one Indian said could be compared to the "soul" in music.

Indian Dennis Taylor said some people have that quality or calling to dance and some don't. He said he has a calling for other things in life but not dancing.

Counties upset by changes in CUP

By JOSEPHINE ZIMERMAN
Herald Staff Writer

Outlying counties in the Central Utah Water Conservancy District are upset that they are being left out of the Central Utah Project, which they have supported with their tax funds for 20 years.

At a Thursday meeting in Salt Lake City, county commission representatives voted unanimously to ask the State Auditor to make an audit of the Central Utah Water Conservancy District to determine if funds have been used appropriately.

Michael Styler, Millard County, chairman of the Utah Commissioners' Association, called the meeting, inviting all 12 counties involved in CUWCD to send commissioner representatives.

Represented at the session were commissioners from Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, Juab, Millard, Utah, Uintah, Duchesne and Wasatch counties. Other counties in CUWCD are Salt Lake, Summit and Garfield.

Commissioners noted that the Central Utah Project is winding down, and will probably be concluded as soon as work on the Jordanelle Dam is finished, yet the projects they were promised at the outset have never been built.

Representatives from Duchesne County said they are teaming up with the Ute Indian Tribe in an effort to pressure for

"Congress isn't going to appropriate money for power plants because there's no market for power."

construction on the UPALCO unit, which was part of the original five-unit CUP plan, but has not been built.

"We joined the conservancy district to do certain things, and they haven't been done. Now the CUP is winding down," one representative commented.

He estimated that less than \$500,000 of the \$2.4 billion spent on CUP had been spent on their projects.

Commissioners from Juab, Sanpete and Sevier counties said they had been promised for 20 years that they would receive additional irrigation water, but the works to deliver it have never been built.

They noted that now they have been told Congress will not appropriate funds for irrigation projects.

They were told that U.S. Rep. Wayne Owens, D-Utah, and Sen. Jake Garn, R-

Utah, are both introducing bills to allow the CUWCD to bond for funds to build a power plant in Diamond Fork. Proceeds from the sale of power would then be used to build the irrigation and drainage system for counties south of Utah County.

Utah County Commissioner Malcolm Beck said there is a glut on power now because so many power plants have been built.

"Where will they sell the power?" he asked. "Congress isn't going to appropriate money for power plants because there's no market for power."

Styler said they would probably build enough power facilities in Diamond Fork to provide power for project pumping.

Styler said he is concerned that the CUWCD has no oversight.

"There's no safety valve," he said.

One man declared that Salt Lake County board members have absolute control of the board, but the outlying counties could have control if they banded together.

Styler recommended that all commissioners call in their CUWCD board members regularly to report on district activities and to hear their concerns.

The commission representatives voted to have more meetings to discuss the problems they see.

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